

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to include section headings and to address a typographical error. No new matter is added.

As to specification objection for the priority claim not being inserted in the specification, as noted in the Official Action, the priority claim can also be in an ADS. A copy of the ADS as filed claiming priority and the post card receipt evidencing the same is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 were previously pending in this application. New claims 14 and 15 are added. Therefore, claims 1-15 are presented for consideration.

Claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

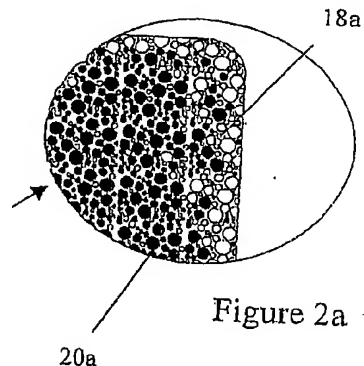
Claim 1 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the recited "injection temperature" and to clarify that the rigid component is part of the rigid zone, to address the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection as to claim 1.

Claim 4 is amended to remove the "such as" phrase to address the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection as to this claim. The "such as" feature is presented in a dependent claim.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over PIGOTT et al. US Publication No. 2003/0041956. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a single composite plastics material which is constituted by a mixture of at least one anti-skid component and a rigid component. Thus, the components are mixed together.

By way of example, as seen in Figure 2a of the present application, reproduced below, the anti-skid component (white circles 18a) is mixed with the rigid component (black discs 20a).



By contrast, paragraph [0027] of PIGOTT discloses a base plastic and a second plastic applied to a surface of the base plastic to increase friction. The base plastic and second plastic of PIGOTT is not a mixture. Rather, the second plastic is bonded to, applied to or welded to the base plastic (see paragraphs [0029], [0035], [0038], [0041] and the entirety of PIGOTT).

PIGOTT does not disclose that the base plastic and second plastic is a mixture.

As PIGOTT does not disclose each and every recited feature, PIGOTT does not anticipate the claims and, the claims would not have been obvious in view of PIGOTT.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over PIGOTT in view of PALMER 6,892,993. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

PALMER is only cited with respect to features of dependent claim 4. PALMER does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claim 4 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, claim 4 is believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

New claims 14 and 15 are added. Claim 14 is directed to the "such as" subject matter of claim 4. New claim 15 finds support at least in Figure 2 and page 5, line 16 to page 6, line 11 of the application as filed.

In view of the present amendment and foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The appendix includes the following items:

- a copy of the Application Data Sheet (ADS) as
filed on September 21, 2006
- a copy of the stamped post card evidencing receipt
of the ADS at the USPTO